

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

PLEASE CANCEL CLAIMS 1-55 WITHOUT PREJUDICE OR DISCLAIMER.

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Please add new claims 56-78:

56. (New) Method of providing at least one bearer service through a heterogenous wireless network for at least one application running at a mobile endpoint,

characterized by the steps:

detecting an operational context as characteristics of the mobile endpoint, characteristics of at least one application running at the mobile endpoint, characteristics of application data to be transferred, and/or availability and capability of at least one bearer service;

dynamically selecting at least one bearer service and setting up/tearing down related wireless connections provided through the heterogenous wireless network according to the determined operational context.

57. (New) Method according to claim 56, characterized in that it comprises the step of updating bearer services and/or related bearer capabilities in a bearer configuration memory.

58. (New) Method according to claim 57, characterized in that the step of updating bearer services and/or related bearer capabilities in a bearer configuration memory is executed event driven or at pre-determination points in time.

59. (New) method according to claim 56, characterized in that it comprises the step of registering active applications running at the mobile endpoint.

60. (New) Method according to claim 59, characterized in that the step of registering active applications further registers application requirements.

61. (New) Method according to claim 60, characterized in that application requirements are selected from a group comprising application configuration requirement and application priority.

62. (New) Method according to claim 59, characterized in that application related information is stored in a selection table.

63. (New) Method according to claim 59, characterized in that the step of dynamically selecting bearer services further comprises the steps of:

negotiating at least one communication request existing for the active application against a bearer capability of the heterogeneous wireless network; and

updating at least one assignment of an active application to an available bearer service in the heterogeneous wireless network in accordance with a negotiation result.

64. (New) Method according to claim 63, characterized in that the step of negotiating comprises a step of generating a list of active applications in order of priority and generating a list of available bearer services and/or related bearer capabilities in the heterogeneous wireless network.

65. (New) Method according to claim 64, characterized in that the step of negotiating further comprises the steps of:

assigning the next active application according to the order of priority to an available bearer service according to at least one predetermined rule;

updating the list of available bearer services and the list of non-assigned active applications.

66. (New) Method according to claim 63, characterized in that the negotiating and updating steps are repeated while an application is active.

67. (New) Apparatus for establishing a middleware platform on top of a heterogeneous wireless network in support of at least one application running at a mobile endpoint,

characterized by:

a middleware platform unit adapted to detect an operational context as characteristics of the mobile endpoint, characteristics of the at least one application running at the mobile endpoint, characteristics of application data to be transferred, and/or availability and capability of the at least one bearer service;

a bearer management unit adapted to dynamically select at least one bearer service and set up/tear down related wireless connections provided through the heterogeneous wireless network according to the determined operational context.

68. (New) Apparatus according to claim 67, characterized in that it comprises a bearer capability update unit adapted to update bearer services and related capabilities in a bearer configuration table.

69. (New) Apparatus according to claim 67, characterized in that the bearer capability update unit is adapted to update bearer capabilities in a bearer configuration table in an event driven manner or at pre-determined points in time.

70. (New) Apparatus according to claim 67, characterized in that the bearer management unit comprises a registration unit adapted to register active applications running at the mobile endpoint.

71. (New) Apparatus according to claim 70, characterized in that the registration unit is adapted to register application requirements.

72. (New) Apparatus according to claim 71, characterized in that the registration unit is adapted to register application requirements selected from a group comprising application configuration requirement and application priority.

73. (New) Apparatus according to claim 67, characterized in that the bearer management unit comprises a memory unit adapted to store application related information according to a selection table data structure.

74. (New) Apparatus according to claim 13, characterized in that the bearer management unit further comprises a bearer assignment modification unit adapted to:

negotiate at least one communication request existing for the active application against a bearer service and related bearer capability of the heterogeneous wireless network; and

update at least one assignment of an active application to an available bearer service in the heterogeneous wireless network in accordance with a negotiation result.

75. (New) Apparatus according to claim 74, characterized in that the bearer assignment modification unit is adapted to generate a list of active applications in order of priority and a list of available bearer services in the heterogeneous wireless network.

76. (New) Apparatus according to claim 75, characterized in that the bearer assignment modification unit is further adapted to:

assign the next active application according to the order of priority to an available bearer service according to at least one pre-determined rule; and

to update the list of available bearer services and/or related bearer capabilities and the list of non-assigned active applications.

77. (New) Apparatus according to claim 74, characterized in that the bearer assignment modification unit is adapted to repeat negotiation of bearer capabilities and update of available bearer services and/or related bearer services while an application is still active.

78. (New) Computer program product directly loadable into the internal memory of a mobile communication middleware platform comprising software code portions for performing the steps of claim 56, when the product is run on a processor of the mobile communication middleware platform.